Statistical Organisation, the rate of growth in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing during the last three years is given below:

Annual growth rate of GDP at 1999-2000 prices in Agriculture, Forestry, Logging and Fishing

Year	Growth rates in agriculture, forestry and fishing
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.7
2005-06	2.3

Source: Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi

(b) The Planning Commission in its Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan has projected the growth rate of 3.2 percent during the year 2006-07 at factor cost and at 2001-02 prices.

(c) A series of initatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of increased credit coverage, irrigation expansion, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture, extension services and storage facilities. Efforts are on to enhance production and productivity and to encourage farming as a remunerative profession. This process is being strengthened through farm mechanization, agri-clinics and agri-business centres. The areas for high investment include irrigation including drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, having end-to-end approach.

Growth Rate in Agriculture

†565. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first three years of Tenth Five Year Plan and average rate of growth in agriculture sector remained 1.5 per cent in comparision to the set target;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production of foodgrains have declined and the situation with regard to food-safety turned grim due to lack of required investment in the agriculture sector; and

(c) if so, the scheme and target set by Government to expand agriculture sector, to ensure food-safety and raising the foodgrain production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIKANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) with revised base year (i.e. 1999-2000 prices), the average rate of growth in agriculture and allied sectors is 1.3 percent in the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) Due to severe drought that affected several States/regions in the country, foodgrains production during the first year of the Tenth Plan *i.e.* 2002-03 declined by about 18 percent to 174.77 million tonnes from 212.85 million tonnes in 2001-02. The second year of the Tenth Plan i.e. 2003-04 witnessed significant increase in foodgrains production to 213.46 million tonnes, which however, declined to 204.61 million tonnes in the subsequent year, reflecting the impact of deficient rainfall in 2004-05. As per the 4th Advance Estimates released by the ministry of Agriculture, the decline in foodgrains production to 204.61 million tonnes in 2004-05 from 213.46 million tonnes in 2003-04 did not have adverse impact on food security.

According to the date released by CSO, the total investment at current prices has gone up by 9.2 percent from Rs. 61814 crores in 2002-03 to Rs. 67561 crores in 2004-05.

(c) A series of initiatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of increased credit coverage, irrigation expansion, crop diversification, dryland farming, marketing infrastructure, horticulture, extension services and storage facilities. Efforts are on to enhance production and productivity to 4% and to encourage farming as a remunerative profession. This process is strengthen'd through farm mechanization, agri-clinics and agri-business centres. The areas for highinvestment include irrigation comparising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission having end-to-end approach.

The Schemes for rice, wheat and coarse cereals are under implementation to augment their production and productivity under macro-management mode of agriculture in which States have been given the flexibility to choose any scheme or its components according to the specific needs. These initiatives are expected to accelerate growth and productivity both in cereal and non-cereal crops.

Production of Oilseeds

566. DR. M.A.M RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a^whether the production of oilseeds has been stagnating during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of production during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the reasons for less production; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The production of oilseeds shows an increasing trend over the last three years as shown in the table below:

Production of Oilseeds (lakh tonnes)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	148.38	252.90	261.03*

*4th advance estimates

The state-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below)

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) In order to provide flexibility to the States in implementation, based on regionally differentiated approach, to promote crop diversification in favour of oilseeds and to provide*focused approach to the programmes, the erstwhile schemes of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP),